* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the preserved traces and remains of an organism that lived long ago.
  + Examples can include bones, teeth, shells, and imprints, or impressions of organisms that were pressed into mud and sand.
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is a scientist who studies fossils.
  + Their job is difficult because fossils are often only part of the remains of an ancient organism.
* An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a major division of time. Each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lasted many millions of years and is defined by events that took place during that time.
* Classify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Predict:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Why scientists study fossils:**

* Most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that were alive millions of years ago are now extinct. Paleontologists compare fossils of these extinct species to species that are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ today.
  + They want to know in what ways an extinct species is like a modern-day species.

**How scientists study fossils:**

* Scientists study **fossils** by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, making careful observations, and comparing this information to what they already know about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and its history.
* Possible questions that scientists might ask about fossils.